

## Amendments to the Claims

### Listing of Claims:

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) Vertebral anchoring device comprising:

a connector (2),

a connecting rod (10)

a polyaxial anchoring screw (3) having:

a spherical head (15), and

a screw-threaded body (16) having screw threads (17) whose external diameter  $d$  at one end of the screw threads (17) is greater than the external diameter  $a$  of the spherical head (15), said spherical head being integral with said screw-threaded body wherein said

connector (2) includes a connecting element (4) comprising:

vertical branches (5, 6) delimiting a U shaped opening (7),

a locking clip (8) provided with a pressure screw (9) for blocking in the bottom of the U shaped opening the connecting rod (10),

said connecting element (4) being pierced at its middle with a threaded vertical bore (11) permitting receiving opposite the opening (7), a blocking device (19) in the form of a ring (20) having a collar (23) and a screw-threaded socket (21) cooperating with said threaded vertical bore for emplacement and positioning of the connector (2) on the spherical head (15) of the anchoring screw (3), said screw-threaded socket (21) adapted to encircle a substantial portion of said spherical head (15) and said collar

(23) of said ring (20).

2. (Previously Presented) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 1, wherein the vertical bore (11) comprises from the bottom of the U shaped opening (7) a first circular portion (12) and a second screw-threaded portion (13) whose internal diameter is greater than that of the first portion so as to define an internal shoulder (14).

3. (Previously Presented) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 2, wherein the internal diameter **d1** of the circular portion (12) of the vertical bore (11) is less than the external diameter **d** of the screw-threaded portion (17) or **a** of the spherical head (15) of the anchoring screw (3).

4. (Previously Presented) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 1, wherein the ring (20) comprises a cylindrical portion (22) bordered at one of its ends by said collar (23).

5. (Previously Presented) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 4, wherein the external diameter of the cylindrical portion (22) is less than the internal diameter **d1** of the portion (12) of the vertical bore (11), whilst the external diameter of the collar (23) is greater than the internal diameter **d1**.

6. (Previously Presented) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 1, wherein the socket (21) includes a cylindrical body having a screw-threaded external surface (24) and an internally opening bore (25) provided at one of its ends with a diametric reduction forming a bearing surface (26) of part spherical shape.

7. (Previously Presented) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 6, wherein the socket (21) comprises on its external surface and in prolongation of the screw-threaded external surface (24) an unscrew-threaded shoulder (27) and opposite the shoulder (27) notches (28).

8. (Previously Presented) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 6, wherein the socket (21) comprises in a longitudinal direction two opposite slots (29, 30) partially cutting the length of the cylindrical body into two separate and identical portions (31, 32).

9. (Previously Presented) Vertebral anchoring device according to claim 8, wherein the two separate portions (31, 32) are interconnected at the level of the shoulder (27) by a bridge (33) delimiting on the one hand a maximum opening before rupture of the slots (29, 30) at the level of the bearing surface (26) of part spherical shape, and on the other hand a maximum elasticity of the socket (21).